

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 21, wherein:

each one of said plurality of magnetic components has a spherical configuration such that said surface contour means defines point-to-point contact loci when each one of said plurality of magnetic components is magnetically attracted and connected to an adjacent one of said plurality of magnetic components.

3. (Currently Amended) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 21, wherein:

said articulated band comprises a continuous, uninterrupted, endless loop.

4. (Currently Amended) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 3,

said endless loop comprises a jewelry item selected from ~~the~~ a group comprising a necklace, a bracelet, a ring, and an earring.

5. (Original) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

each one of said plurality of magnetic components has the same diametrical extent.

6. (Withdrawn From Consideration) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

said plurality of magnetic components comprise two sets of magnetic components;

wherein each one of said magnetic components, comprising a first set of said two sets of magnetic components, has a first predetermined diametrical extent; and

wherein further, each one of said magnetic compon-

ents, comprising a second set of said two sets of magnetic components, has a second predetermined diametrical extent which is less than said first diametrical extent characteristic of each one of said magnetic components comprising said first set of said two sets of magnetic components.

7. (Withdrawn From Consideration) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 6, wherein:

said magnetic components comprising said first set of said two sets of magnetic components and said magnetic components comprising said second set of said two sets of magnetic components are magnetically connected together in an alternative array such that each one of said magnetic components comprising said first set of said two sets of magnetic components is interposed between a pair of said magnetic components comprising said second set of said two sets of magnetic components, and concomitantly, each one of said magnetic components comprising said second set of said two sets of magnetic components is interposed between a pair of said magnetic components comprising said first set of said two sets of magnetic components.

8. (Original) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 2, further comprising:

a plurality of ferromagnetic components magnetically attracted and attached to said plurality of spherically configured magnetic components.

9. (Original) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 8, wherein:

said plurality of ferromagnetic components are disposed within a plurality of annular arrays defined around each one of said point-to-point contact loci defined between adjacent ones of said plurality of magnetic components magnetically connected together at said point-to-point contact loci.

10. (Original) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 9, wherein:

each one of said plurality of magnetic components has a predetermined diametrical extent; and

each one of said plurality of annular arrays of ferromagnetic components has a predetermined diametrical extent which is substantially the same as said predetermined diametrical extent of each one of said plurality of magnetic components.

11. (Currently Amended) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

each one of said magnetic components has a coating disposed upon the respective external surface portions thereof which is selected from the group comprising protective and decorative coatings.

12. (Original) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 11, wherein:

said coating is selected from the group comprising gold, silver, platinum, copper, chromium, rhodium, plastics, nickel, and enamels.

13. (Original) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 8, wherein:

each one of said magnetic components, and each one of said ferromagnetic components, has a coating disposed upon the respective external surface portions thereof which is selected from the group comprising protective and decorative coatings.

14. (Original) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 13, wherein:

said coating is selected from the group comprising gold, silver, platinum, copper, chromium, rhodium, plastics, nickel, and enamels.

15. (Withdrawn From Consideration) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

a plurality of ferromagnetic components are interposed between said plurality of magnetic components whereby said plurality of magnetic components are operatively con-

nected to each other through means of said plurality of ferromagnetic components.

16. (Withdrawn From Consideration) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 15, wherein:

each one of said magnetic components has a spherical configuration; and

each one of said ferromagnetic components has a spherical configuration with an annular recess portion defined within an axially central peripheral surface region thereof for accommodating said magnetic components having said spherical configurations.

17. (Withdrawn From Consideration) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 16, wherein:

said annular recess portion, formed within each one of said ferromagnetic components, has arcuate contours in both X and Y directions so as to establish surface-to-surface contact regions with adjacent ones of said magnetic compon-

ents.

18. (Withdrawn From Consideration) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 17, wherein:

said magnetic components and said ferromagnetic components are magnetically connected together in an alternative array such that each one of said magnetic components is interposed between a pair of said ferromagnetic components, and concomitantly, each one of said ferromagnetic components is interposed between a pair of said magnetic components.

19. (Withdrawn From Consideration) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 15, wherein:

each one of said magnetic components, and each one of said ferromagnetic components, has a coating disposed upon the respective external surface portions thereof which is selected from the group comprising protective and decorative coatings.

20. (Withdrawn From Consideration) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 19, wherein:

said coating is selected from the group comprising gold, silver, platinum, copper, chromium, rhodium, plastics, nickel, and enamels.

21. (New) (Original) An articulated band, comprising:

a plurality of magnetic components;

first and second opposite magnetic poles defined within opposite ends of each one of said plurality of magnetic components so as to permit any one of said plurality of magnetic components to be magnetically attracted toward and operatively connected to another one of said plurality of magnetic components when a first one of said opposite magnetic poles of said any one of said plurality of magnetic components is operatively engaged with a second one of said opposite magnetic poles of said another one of said plurality of magnetic components; and

surface contour means defined upon each one of said plurality of magnetic components for permitting universal rotational movement of each one of said plurality of magnetic

components, with respect to an adjacent one of said plurality of magnetic components operatively connected to said each one of said plurality of magnetic components, around three mutually orthogonal axes.